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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND RELATED MATTERS

UNDP: The role of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Report of the Administrator

I. PURPOSE

1. The present report is submitted to the Executive Board in accordance with paragraph 4 of its decision 94/13 of 9 June 1994.

II. UNDP SUPPORT TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990S

A. General

2. In response to paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 46/151 calling for additional resources for the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), UNDP launched project RAF/93/004/A/01/51: Support for Monitoring the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) in 1993, the project is designed to:

(a) Provide monitoring of networks and strengthening mechanisms for strategic policy dialogue on Africa through the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA);

(b) Reinforce the Office of the Special Coordinator of Assistance to Africa and the Least Developed Countries (OSCAL);

(c) Provide support to Africa Recovery magazine to enable a wider coverage and dissemination of information regarding African development.

B. Activities and achievements in 1994

3. Coordination with the United Nations system. UNDP is an active member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on African Economic Recovery and Development. In this capacity, UNDP participated in the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on the preliminary consideration of the implementation of the New Agenda (A/48/33) submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session and was subsequently involved in the revision of the United Nations system-wide Plan of Action.

4. Support to the Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development. UNDP continued to participate actively in efforts by the Panel to build international consensus on priority issues on African economic recovery and development, such as the role of African non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in development, African debt, human resources development, agriculture, trade, peace, stability and security in Africa. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, served as Secretary to the Panel.

5. Tokyo International Conference on African Development. UNDP participated in the preparation of the Conference, which was held on 5 to 6 October 1993. As follow-up, UNDP and OSCAL worked closely together in the organization of the Africa-Asia Forum in Bandung in December 1994.

6. African Economic Community. UNDP continued to extend assistance to the joint secretariat of the Organization of African Unity/Economic Commission for Africa/African Development Bank (OAU/ECA/AfDB) in its efforts to implement the Abuja Treaty. Activities that were supported included strengthening the joint secretariat itself, rationalization and harmonization of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and the various regional economic communities and the finalization of the African Economic Community protocols.

7. Capacity-building and long-term strategic planning. Under the multi-donor funded African Capacity-Building Initiative (ACBI), which aims at strengthening regional and national capacities to formulate and manage national economic policies and programmes, support was extended to key training institutions in several countries, including Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The report of the mid-term evaluation of ACBI will be submitted to the Executive Board in 1995. Long-term strategic planning is being supported by the National Long-Term Perspective Studies (NLTPS) programme and four countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritius) are expected to complete the exercise in 1995; others, including Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, have also embarked on the exercise. The report of the recently held mid-term evaluation of NLTPS will be submitted to the Executive Board in 1995.

8. Private sector development. The promotion of the private sector to increase its productivity, saving and investment is a key element for socio-economic growth. The African Project-Development Facility (APDF),

co-sponsored by UNDP, the African Development Bank, the World Bank and bilateral donors completed 130 projects in 25 countries. The African Management Services Company (AMSCO), which supports management strengthening and training restructured its programmes in 1993 and made more progress in 1994. Since 1993, UNDP has provided support to the Caisse française de développement in setting up an investment guarantee fund for West Africa.

9. Other UN-NADAF-related support. In the area of human resources development, UNDP helped several countries, including Botswana, Cameroon, Gambia, Guinea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi and Namibia, to focus on operationalizing the sustainable human development concept. In its support to the environment in 1994, UNDP supported initiatives such as Capacity 21 and coordinated its interventions with those of other partners, including the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) on desertification; the Africa 2000 Network on grass-roots activities in the management of natural resources; and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) mainly on activities related to biodiversity conservation and the protection of coastal areas from pollution.

10. OSCAL. UNDP provided (a) partial funding for the workshop on NGOs and African development organized by OSCAL in January 1995 and (b) support for a study on the development of the African informal sector.

III. IMPACT OF UNDP SUPPORT

11. By supporting the three United Nations entities involved in the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the UN-NADAF (OSCAL/(DPCSD), ECA, Department of Public Information (DPI)/Africa Recovery magazine), UNDP has contributed in ensuring the effective implementation of UN-NADAF and to keep African economic recovery and development a top priority of the United Nations.

12. UNDP has endeavoured to build a consensus around important development issues in Africa and to promote the creation of an environment that supports Africa's own efforts to achieve growth and development. All of these, in turn, help to facilitate the implementation of the UN-NADAF in individual countries.

13. By redesigning the country programmes to make them more focused on priority issues identified in UN-NADAF, UNDP is responding to the call to development partners to support this initiative.

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UNDP: TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Administrator

I. PURPOSE

1. The present report provides information on technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) during the biennium 1993-1994.

II. MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE USE OF TCDC

2. In accordance with the Special Programme Resources (SPR) allocation for TCDC (Subcategory B4) the Special Unit for TCDC has been implementing an overall strategy that places increased emphasis on strengthening the capacity of developing countries to manage the development process themselves. The activities that supported this strategy were carried out within the overall framework of four subprogrammes: (a) sensitization and information on the TCDC modality; (b) capacities and needs matching exercises and subject-specific workshops; (c) studies and evaluation; and (d) capacities enhancement for the application of TCDC.

3. Activities within these subprogrammes have focused on key sectors in support of sustainable human development. Capacities and needs matching exercises were held in Bangladesh (credit and poverty alleviation); Myanmar (coastal and inland fisheries/aquaculture); Nigeria (agriculture and rural development); Uganda (industry and support services); and Zimbabwe (mining). Each of these exercises resulted in an average of over 200 bilateral agreements for technical cooperation between participating developing countries. Subject-specific workshops were held in all of the regions and focused on interactive exchanges and consultations designed to share experiences and

know-how that will result in the replication of applicable technologies and approaches in an increased number of developing countries. These workshops have had a catalytic effect in mobilizing resources in the developing countries for the implementation of activities in high-priority areas such as poverty alleviation, resource mobilization/aid coordination, privatization, south-south trade development, urban and environmental management, micro-economic policy for transition economies, and networking among women community leaders. The sensitization and information subprogramme concentrated on the development of the TCDC-INRES databank on developing country institutional capacities by refining the information in the database and facilitating easier access to the information by potential users through the development of the INRES-LITE software package to potential users in Governments, UNDP country offices, United Nations specialized agencies, United Nations economic commissions and NGOs. Activities falling under the other two subprogrammes - Studies and Evaluations and Capacity Enhancement for the Application of TCDC - targeted priority development sectors, including the strengthening of institutional capacities for education through interuniversity cooperation in research; studies on African food production and processing technologies for commercialization; consultations and study for the preparation of a policy-oriented framework to improve the socio-economic conditions of women; and support for the preparation of a programme for improved health practices. The support provided under the subprogrammes further strengthened networking and twinning arrangements and promoted linkages between centres of excellence in the developing countries.

III. A STRATEGIC ORIENTATION AND NEW DIRECTIONS FOR TCDC

4. Within this broad framework, the Special Unit for TCDC has sought to promote a more strategic orientation in respect of its work by focusing the SPR programme on high-impact activities at both regional and interregional levels. For example, in collaboration with the Regional Bureau for Africa and the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, the Special Unit supported and participated in the Asia-Africa Forum held in Bandung, Indonesia in December 1994, which identified substantive areas for promoting the exchange of expertise and experiences among African countries and those of the Association of South-East Asian Nations. Another innovative initiative, which is forming the basis for strategic TCDC arrangements, is the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted at the Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of SIDS held in Barbados in May 1994. Within the UNDP, the Special Unit has been designated as the Unit responsible for coordinating the follow-up to the Barbados Conference and is currently engaged in supporting the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programmes (SIDS/TAPs) on the basis of the feasibility study submitted on the subject to the General Assembly at its forth-ninth session. TCDC-INRES has undertaken the preparation of a computer-based directory of institutions and scholars with recognized expertise in the sustainable development of small island developing States. In addition, the Special Unit has sought to identify initiatives at the regional level designed to strengthen economic cooperation both within existing integration arrangements as well as outside the framework of such arrangements.

5. In general, the current TCDC strategy seeks to locate TCDC within the framework of broad programmes of economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC) such as the Caracas Programme of Action, in order to ensure that it makes an optimal contribution to sustainable human development. In the context of the preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and HABITAT II, the Special Unit supported a number of initiatives aimed at promoting an exchange of expertise and experiences among developing countries. The Special Unit is also cooperating closely with the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support in bringing together countries in different regions with a view to exchanging experiences on innovative approaches to urban management that can find practical application in other developing countries. Similarly the Unit has supported a study of alternative approaches to economic policy reform aimed at mitigating the adverse social impact on women associated with conventional adjustment programmes. This study was carried out in collaboration with the Gender-in-Development Programme (GIDP) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and forms an important input in the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Unit has also assisted in strengthening UNDP relations with Governments and the United Nations specialized agencies in the promotion of a dynamic programme of TCDC and has laid the groundwork to collaborate more effectively with the regional bureaux and other units within UNDP on substantive issues in order to ensure the systematic integration of TCDC into IPF-funded programmes and projects.

6. During the two-year period under review, significant progress has been realized in promoting TCDC as a central element in technical cooperation activities. There has also been increased emphasis on the role of TCDC in promoting ECDC as an overall development strategy. The resulting heightened profile achieved by TCDC is reflected in the interest shown by major donor countries such as Japan, whose statement to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session called for increased emphasis on south-south cooperation and its incorporation as a main theme in the Agenda for Development.

7. TCDC will also assume increasing importance and prominence in light of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 49/96 calling on the High-Level Committee for TCDC to include on the agenda of its ninth session an item on new directions for TCDC. The resulting decision of the ninth High-Level Committee in this regard will be taken into account by the Secretary-General in the preparation of a comprehensive report containing recommendations for strengthening and expanding south-south cooperation and the convening of an international conference on this subject.

8. The Special Unit undertook a series of internal and external consultations to prepare a report on new directions for TCDC for consideration by the High-Level Committee at its ninth session. This concludes that the TCDC concept remains valid and is likely to assume increased importance in the future in light of the changes occurring in the international system and their impact on the traditional structure of multilateral technical cooperation, creating increased opportunities for TCDC, based among other things on the increasing differentiation among developing countries. This comprehensive document makes recommendations for the re-orientation of existing practices and the development of new initiatives for expanded utilization of TCDC.

IV. GUIDELINES FOR THE REVIEW OF UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ON TCDC

9. In July 1993, following the eighth session of the High-Level Committee, a meeting of the United Nations agency TCDC focal points was convened to review the guidelines and exchange ideas on means for their application. It was decided that UNDP would issue a comprehensive document emphasizing the significance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 calling upon all parties in the development effort to support and give the TCDC option first consideration in technical cooperation activities. At the request of the United Nations agency focal points, the Special Unit also gave wide circulation to the TCDC strategy for the 1990s. It was also decided that the United Nations specialized agencies would take action to review and revise, if necessary, their respective policies and instructions relating to TCDC in light of the guidelines. The next meeting of the United Nations agency focal points was scheduled to take place immediately following the ninth session of the High-Level Committee.

V. EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION

10. The Executive Board may wish to:

Take note, with satisfaction, of the utilization of the Special Programme Resources allocation for technical cooperation among developing countries as an instrument to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to manage the development process themselves;

Welcome the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme to promote a more strategic orientation for technical cooperation among developing countries activities by focusing the present programme on high-impact activities;

Note the contents of the report on New Directions for TCDC and the decisions adopted by the High-Level Committee at its ninth session;

Take appropriate action with regard to the promotion and implementation of technical cooperation among developing countries activities pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41, which calls on all parties in the development effort to give the technical cooperation among developing countries option "first consideration" in technical cooperation activities.